

MARVEL

001

GILLEN
CHECCHETTO
MOSSA

STAR WARS
**SCREAMING
CITADEL**
PART 1 OF 5

STAR WARSTM SCREAMING CITADEL



THE SCREAMING CITADEL

Book I, Part I

It is a time of turmoil for the galaxy. While the evil Galactic Empire remains strong, the forces of the Rebel Alliance continue to struggle for freedom from their oppressive grasp, establishing a secret outpost on Horox III, deep in the Outer Rim.

Young rebel pilot Luke Skywalker, struggling to forge his destiny, is at a loss. He can feel the Force, but without the proper training, he cannot become the Jedi Knight he is certain he must become.

Meanwhile, the rogue archaeologist and sometime scoundrel Doctor Aphra has come into possession of a very valuable – and very dangerous – artifact... one containing the recorded consciousness of an ancient Force user. If only she could reactivate it....

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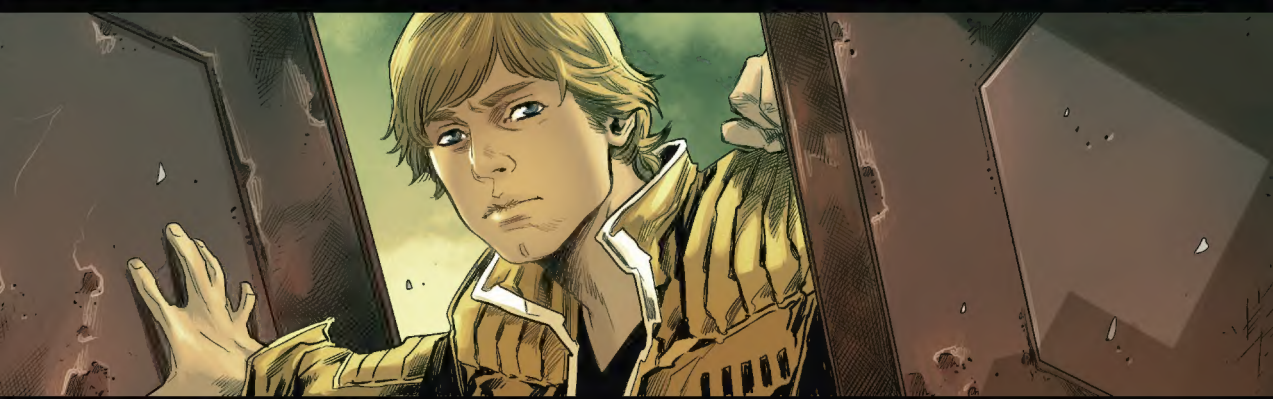
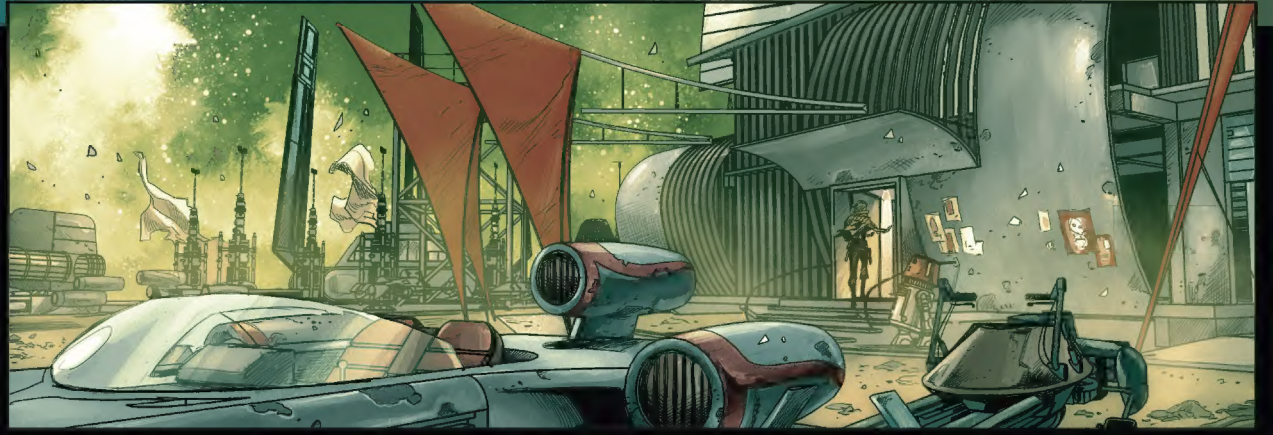
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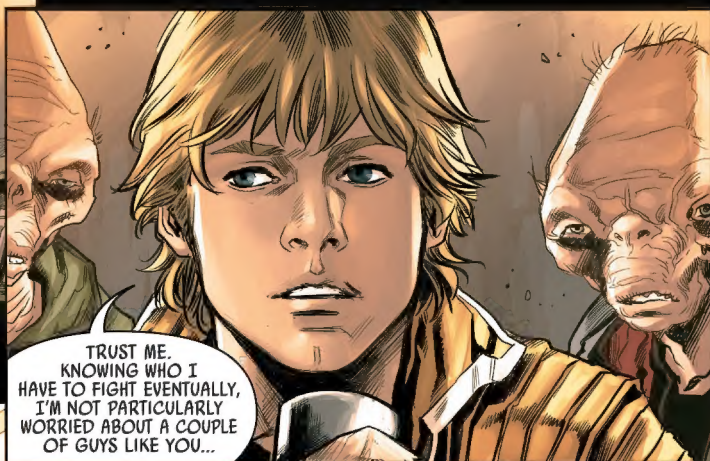
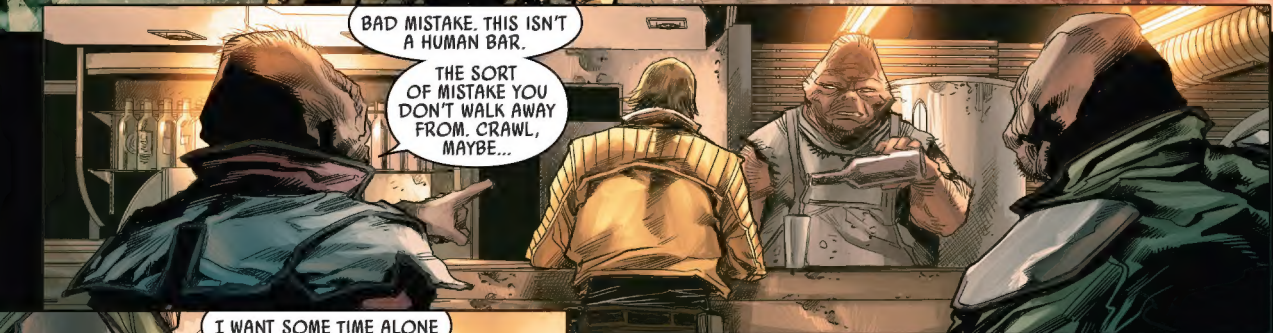
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Horox III,
The Outer Rim.







HE'S
WITH ME.



DOCTOR
APHRA.



YEAH,
THAT'S
RIGHT.

I'M THE
DOCTOR
APHRA, AND
I--



SHE'S THE
ONE WHO STOLE
THE UR-THARN
PROCESSORS!

OH,
YEAH.
THAT.

OOPH!

SHE
PAYS!



Shortly...



THAT WENT WELL.

REALLY?

THANK YOU, BUT...YOU HELP ME AND I END UP IN A FIGHT AGAINST EVERY SINGLE PERSON IN THE PLACE!

IN WHAT WORLD IS THAT "WELL"?



PLUS, YOU... YOU WORKED FOR DARTH VADER.

YOU'RE EVIL.

I USED TO WORK FOR DARTH VADER.

AND...WELL, "EVIL" IS A VERY STRONG WORD.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT, BUT I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

DON'T EVEN THINK OF FOLLOWING ME.



THAT'S TOO BAD, WANNABE PADAWAN...



...CAUSE GUESS WHO KNOWS WHERE YOU CAN FIND A JEDI MASTER?

STAR WARS

SCREENING

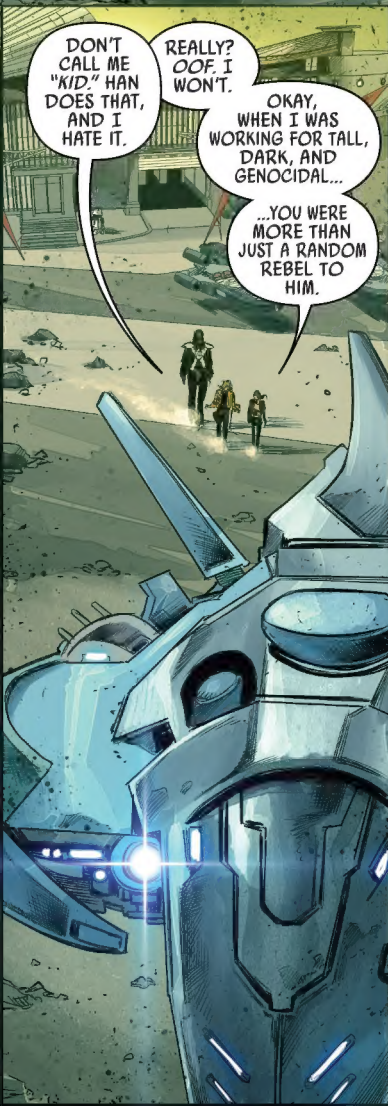
CITADEL



HOW DO YOU KNOW I'M A--

I MEAN, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M A JEDI?

YOU'RE LEARNING, KID.

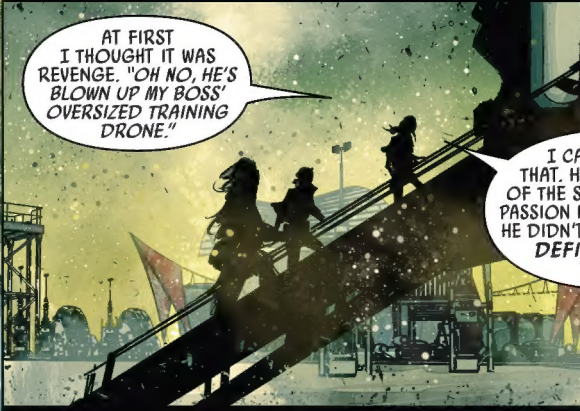


DON'T CALL ME "KID" HAN DOES THAT, AND I HATE IT.

REALLY? OOF, I WON'T.

OKAY, WHEN I WAS WORKING FOR TALL, DARK, AND GENOCIDAL...

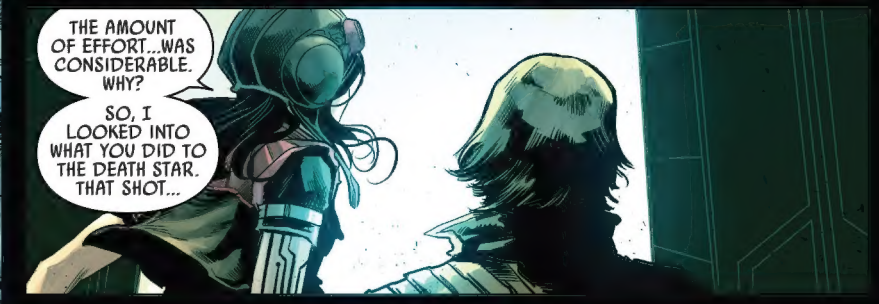
...YOU WERE MORE THAN JUST A RANDOM REBEL TO HIM.



AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS REVENGE. "OH NO, HE'S BLOWN UP MY BOSS' OVERSIZED TRAINING DRONE."

I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT. HE'S A DARK LORD OF THE SITH. OVERWHELMING PASSION IS WHAT THEY DO... BUT HE DIDN'T WANT YOU DEAD. HE DEFINITELY WANTED YOU ALIVE.

NOW, I THOUGHT "THERE'S ALWAYS TORTURE..." BUT THAT'S NOT THE VIBE I GOT.

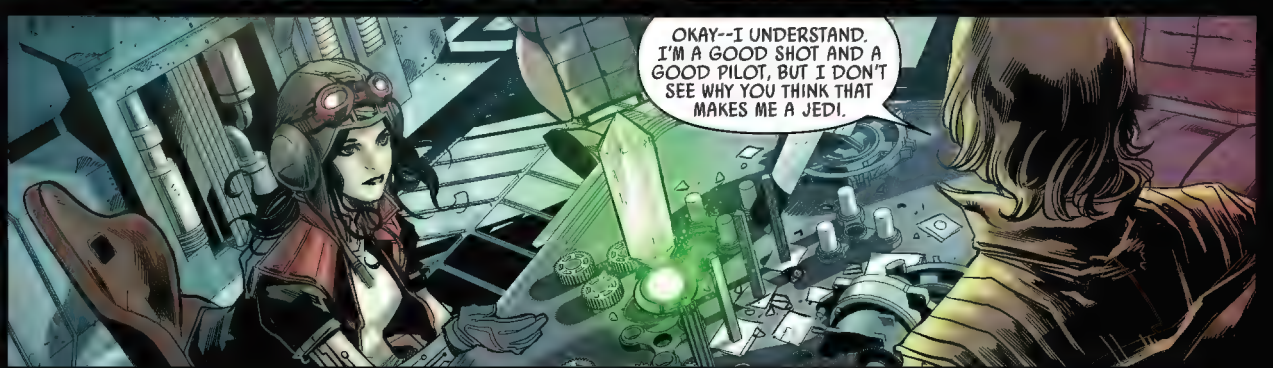


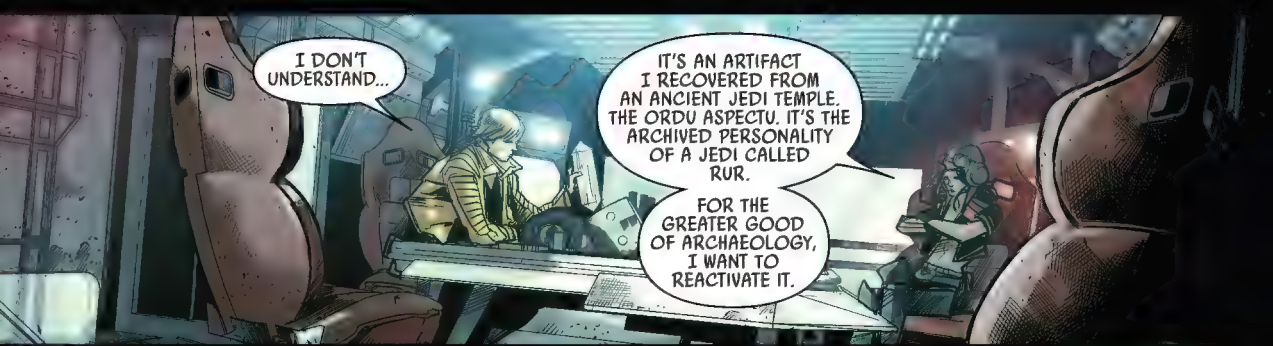
THE AMOUNT OF EFFORT... WAS CONSIDERABLE. WHY?

SO, I LOOKED INTO WHAT YOU DID TO THE DEATH STAR. THAT SHOT...



...ONE IN A MILLION.
AT LEAST.





I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

IT'S AN ARTIFACT I RECOVERED FROM AN ANCIENT JEDI TEMPLE. THE ORDU ASPECTU. IT'S THE ARCHIVED PERSONALITY OF A JEDI CALLED RUR.

FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF ARCHAEOLOGY, I WANT TO REACTIVATE IT.



I...I'M NOT SURE HOW I CAN DO THAT.

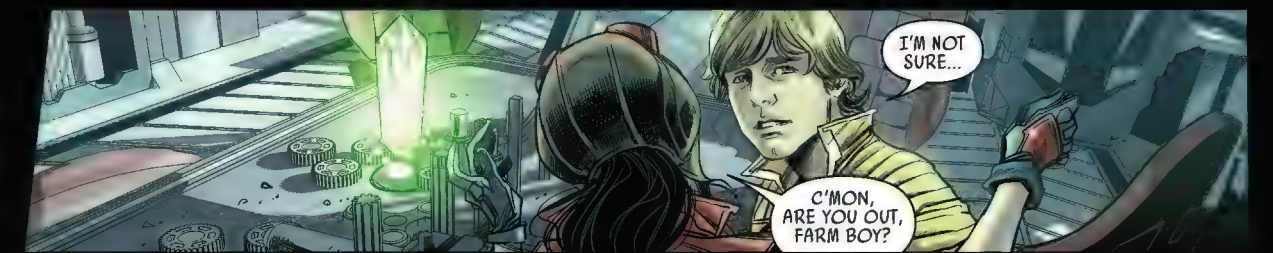
YOU CAN'T. I KNOW WHO CAN. THE QUEEN OF KTATH'ATN--AND DON'T TRY TO PRONOUNCE THAT. SHE'S VERY OLD, AND VERY GOOD, AND BORED.

ONCE A YEAR, SHE SWAPS FAVORS FOR MEETING INTERESTING ORGANIC LIFE. AND MR. FORCE-SENSITIVE? THAT'S YOU.



SO, COME, SHAKE HANDS, HAVE DINNER WITH THE NICE LADY, AND WE WALK AWAY WITH AN ACTUAL SENTIENT ANCIENT JEDI.

YOU GET YOUR TEACHER, I GET AN EYEWITNESS TO THE ANCIENT PAST.

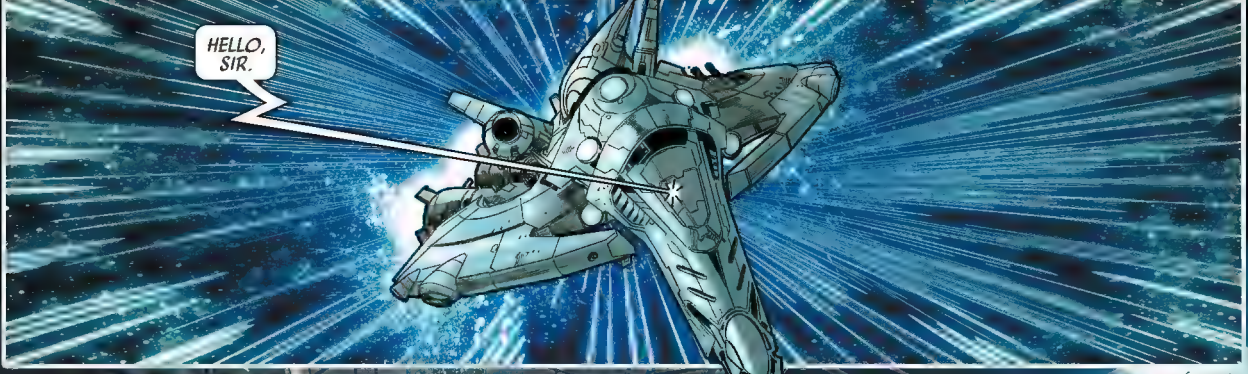


I'M NOT SURE...

C'MON, ARE YOU OUT, FARM BOY?



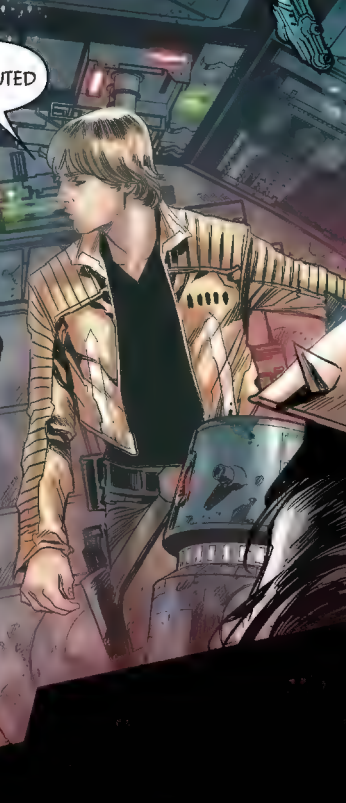
OR ARE YOU IN, JEDI KNIGHT?



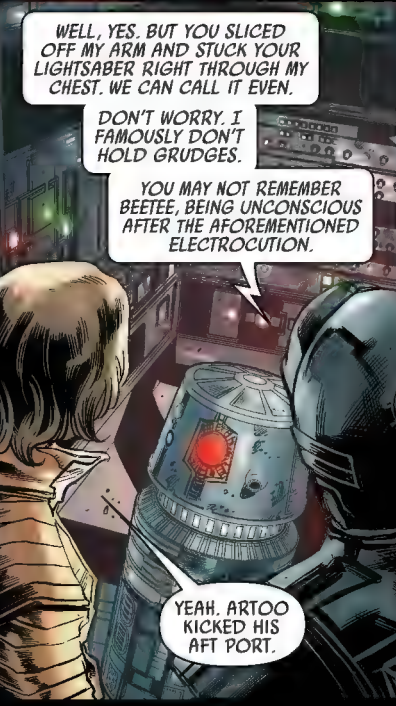
HELLO,
SIR.



GOOD TO SEE YOU
AGAIN! I WOULD
OFFER YOU MY HAND,
BUT AFTER OUR LAST
MEETING...



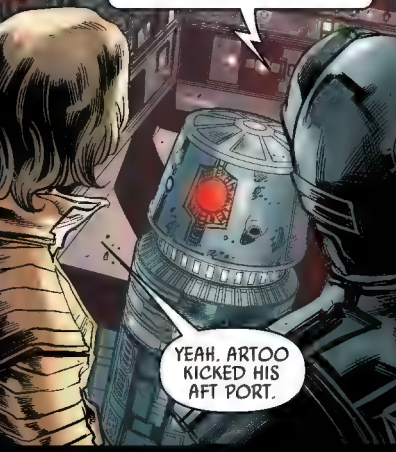
YOU
ELECTROCUTED
ME!



WELL, YES, BUT YOU SLICED
OFF MY ARM AND STUCK YOUR
LIGHTSABER RIGHT THROUGH MY
CHEST. WE CAN CALL IT EVEN.

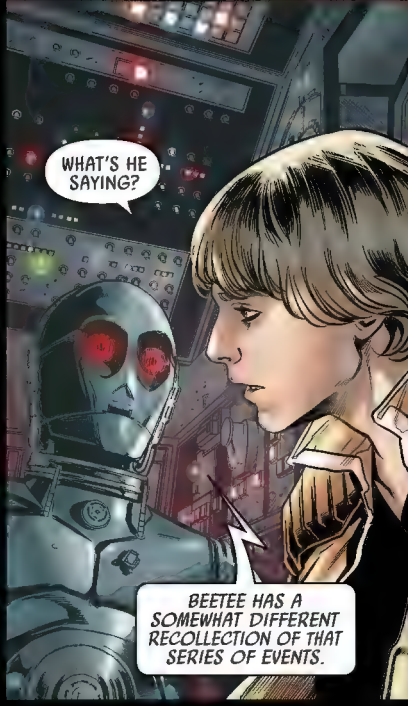
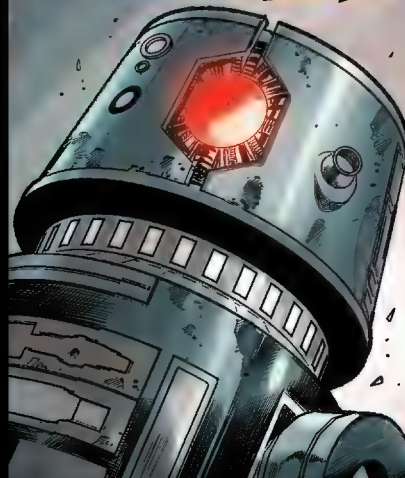
DON'T WORRY. I
FAMOUSLY DON'T
HOLD GRUDGES.

YOU MAY NOT REMEMBER
BEETEE, BEING UNCONSCIOUS
AFTER THE AFOREMENTIONED
ELECTROCUTION.



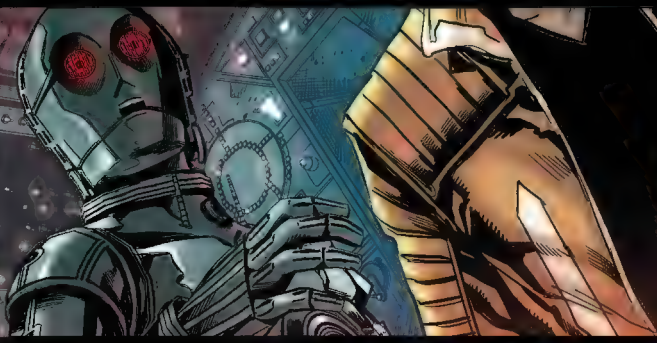
YEAH, ARTOO
KICKED HIS
AFT PORT.

BLEEEP! BLEEP!
BLEEEP! BLEEP!
BLEEEP! BLEEP!



WHAT'S HE
SAYING?

BEETEE HAS A
SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT
RECOLLECTION OF THAT
SERIES OF EVENTS.



AND I WOULD ASK
YOU TO KINDLY
REFRAIN FROM
AGGRAVATING HIM.

I PERSONALLY DON'T NEED
OXYGEN, BUT FLOATING
ENDLESSLY IN SPACE AFTER
THE LITTLE FELLOW DESTROYS
THE SHIP IN A RAGE WOULD
BE RATHER TIRESOME...



I WISH
WE COULD
HAVE TOLD LEIA
OR HAN. OR
EVEN SANA!

YEAH, ME
TOO.



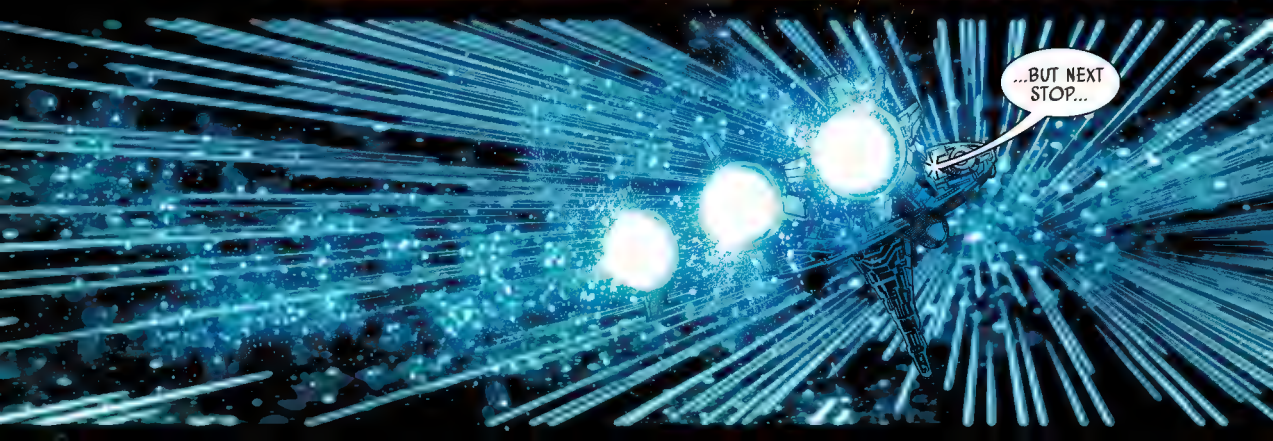
BUT IF YOU DID, THEY'D HAVE
STOPPED YOU, OR COME AFTER YOU,
AND WE'VE GOT A TINY WINDOW FOR
THIS. THE QUEEN ONLY SEES PEOPLE
FOR ONE NIGHT A YEAR, AND
NEITHER OF US HAVE A
YEAR TO WASTE.

WORST OF ALL?
I CAN SEE WHY THEY
WOULD. THEY'VE ALL GOT
GOOD REASONS TO
DISTRUST ME.



AND THIS IS
GOING TO BE
ANOTHER.

YEAH, I
KNOW...



...BUT NEXT
STOP...

The Citadel Of Ktath'atn.

"KTATH'ATN."

WHAT
DOES THAT
MEAN?

"THE MILITARY EXPEDIENT
CONSTRUCTION OF LOUD, SHRILL
EXHALATIONS" IS THE LITERAL
TRANSLATION, BUT THAT DOES
LOSE THE POETRY SOMEWHAT.

PERSONALLY,
I'D GO WITH
"THE SCREAMING
CITADEL."

IT'S A PRETTIER NAME
IN THE ORIGINAL
LANGUAGE, I STRESS.

I HAVE TO ADMIT,
"THE SCREAMING
CITADEL" DOES LEAN
A TRIFLE OMINOUS.

YES, LET'S PRAY IT'S NOT
FALSE ADVERTISING.

I DO SO HATE
GETTING MY
HOPES UP.

THE VILLAGERS.
THEY'RE SO...
THIN.

DO WE HAVE
ANY FOOD TO
SPARE?

YOU ARE
SUCH AN ADORABLE
SWEETHEART I CANNOT EVEN
BRING MYSELF TO CRUSH
YOUR SPIRITS.

KRRSANTAN!



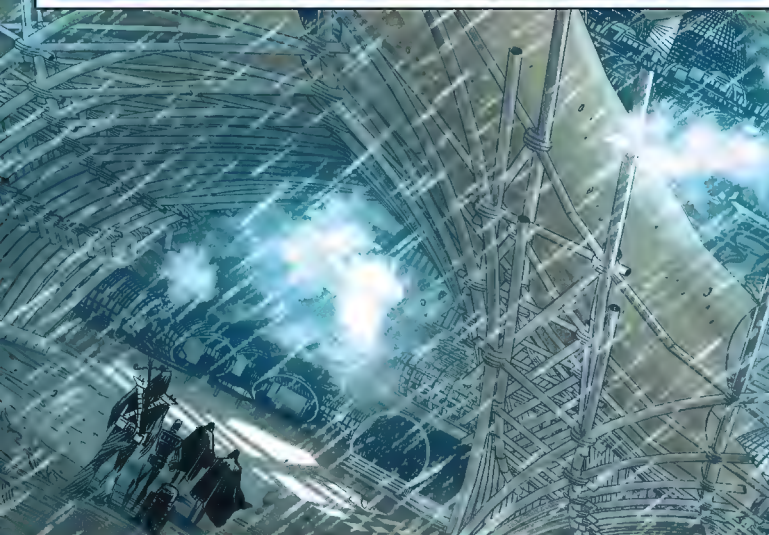


MORE SCARED
THAN HUNGRY,
I GUESS.

I GUESS.

LET'S GET TO
THE CITADEL
QUICKLY.

THIS PLACE
IS CREEPY AS
ALL HELL.



WE'RE HERE
FOR THE PARTY.
I'M DOCTOR
APHRA, AND--

NO
WOOKIEES.



GRRRGGGGGRRRR!

THE
QUEEN HAS...
ALLERGIES
TO CERTAIN
SPECIES.

OKAY, KRRSANTAN,
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE
GOING TO MISS THE
PARTY.

HERE'S A DECK OF
CARDS. GO MAKE
FRIENDS. DON'T KILL
ANYONE.

HOW DID YOU
EVER MEET THAT
GUY?

LONG
STORY.

I OWE
HIM A
LOT.

IT'S GOOD TO
KNOW YOU STICK
BY YOUR FRIENDS.
YOU'RE NOT THAT
BAD. I ME--

I OWE
HIM A LOT OF
MONEY.

OH...
ACTUALLY, TALKING
ABOUT HOW PEOPLE
MET...THAT REMINDS
ME...

HOW DID
YOU FIND ME,
ANYWAY?

ER...

Temporary Rebel Outpost, Horox III.



OH GREAT,
SANA.



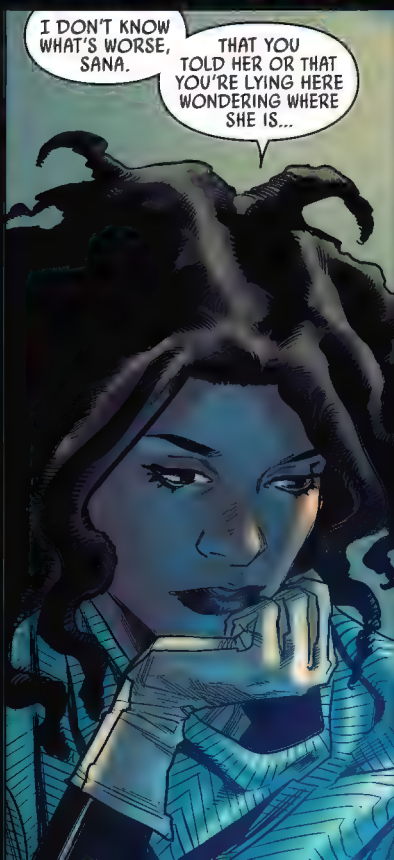
PLAY HER
MESSAGE
AGAIN.

AFFIRMATIVE.



HEY, SANA.
I...I'M SORRY TO
BARGE INTO YOUR
LIFE, BUT I NEED TO
SEE YOU. PERSONAL
STUFF. NO, I'M NOT
IN TROUBLE
AGAIN.

WHERE
ARE YOU
NOW? IT'D BE
GOOD TO CATCH
UP. THAT JAIL-
BREAK WASN'T AN
IDEAL TIME
TO CHAT...



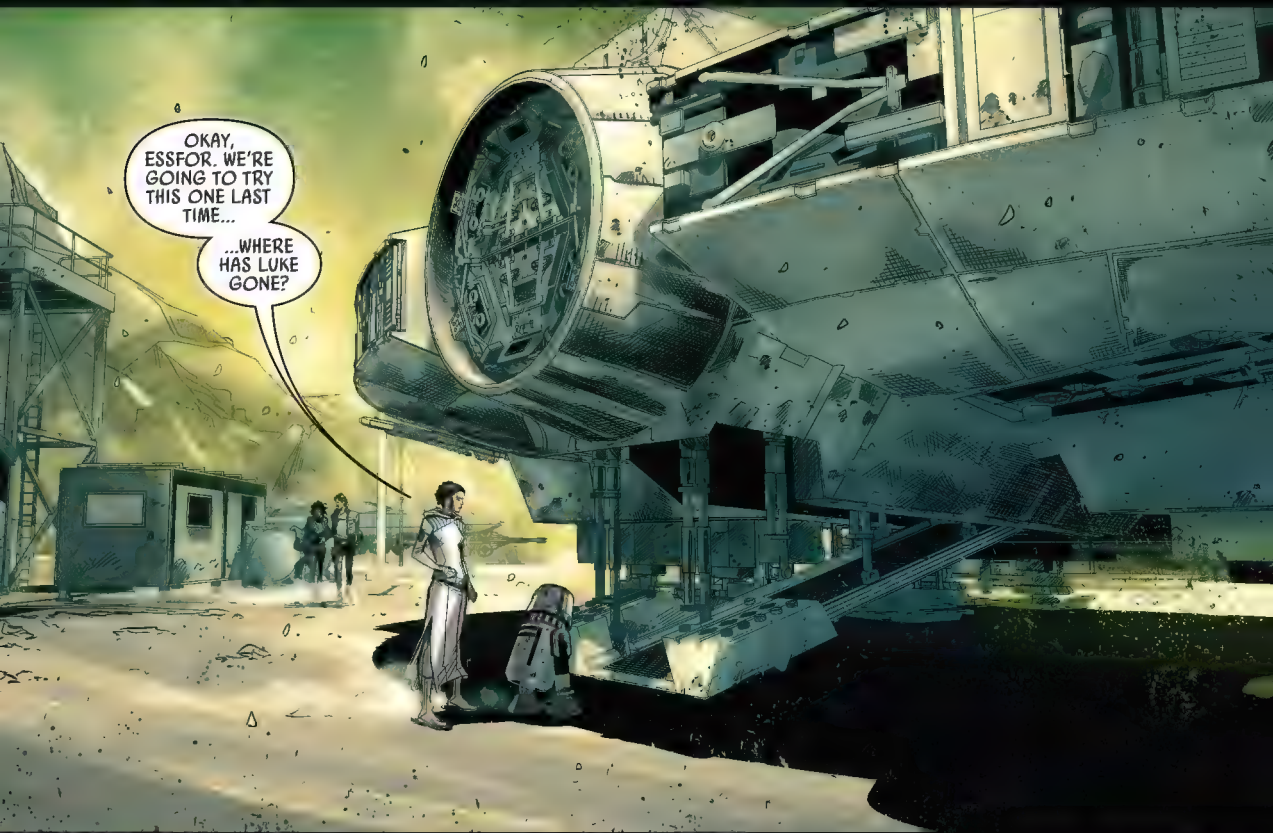
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S WORSE,
SANA.

THAT YOU
TOLD HER OR THAT
YOU'RE LYING HERE
WONDERING WHERE
SHE IS...



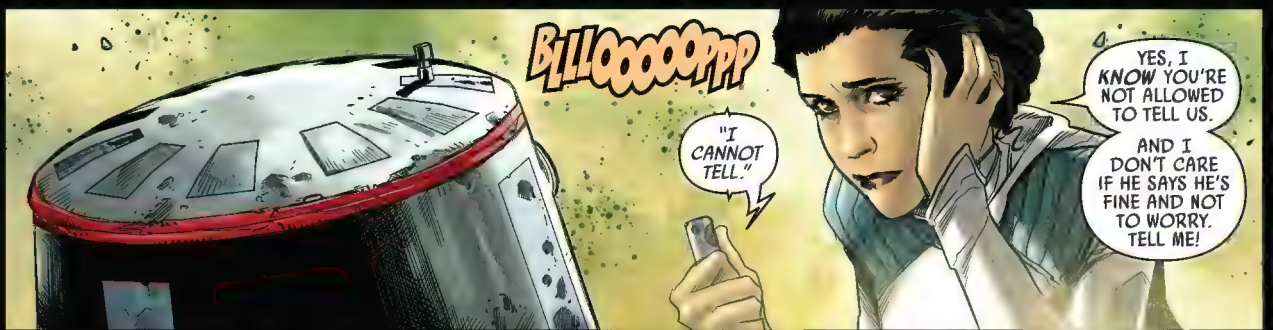
HEY,
SANA.

THE
PRINCESS IS
HAVING SOME
PROBLEM WITH
LUKE'S DUMB
CLANKER...



OKAY, ESSFOR. WE'RE GOING TO TRY THIS ONE LAST TIME...

...WHERE HAS LUKE GONE?



"I CANNOT TELL."

YES, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO TELL US.

AND I DON'T CARE IF HE SAYS HE'S FINE AND NOT TO WORRY. TELL ME!



IT'S TIMES LIKE THIS I REALLY MISS THREEPIO.

GETTING HIM TO START TALKING WAS NEVER A PROBLEM.

ANY IDEAS, SANA?

YEAH, I MAY HAVE...



OKAY, ESSFOR...

...DID LUKE GO BY HIMSELF?



"NO."



WHO WAS LUKE WITH?

BIBIDITY!



WHAT DID HE SAY?



"DOCTOR APHRA."

GAHK!

HEY, YOU GUYS LET HER GO, NOT ME. THIS ISN'T MY MISTAKE, FOR ONCE.

WHY THE HELL WOULD LUKE GO OFF WITH SOMEONE THAT DERANGED?



OH, I DON'T KNOW, HAN. MAYBE FOR EXACTLY THE SAME REASON AS LAST TIME?

SHE'S KIDNAPPED HIM!

COULD SHE REPROGRAM A DROID TO KEEP IT SECRET?

IN HER SLEEP.



AND MAKE A SLOPPY MISTAKE NOT COVERING IT UP?

PUT IT LIKE THIS, HAN...

...NOT FULLY CONSIDERING THE CONSEQUENCES OF HER ACTIONS?

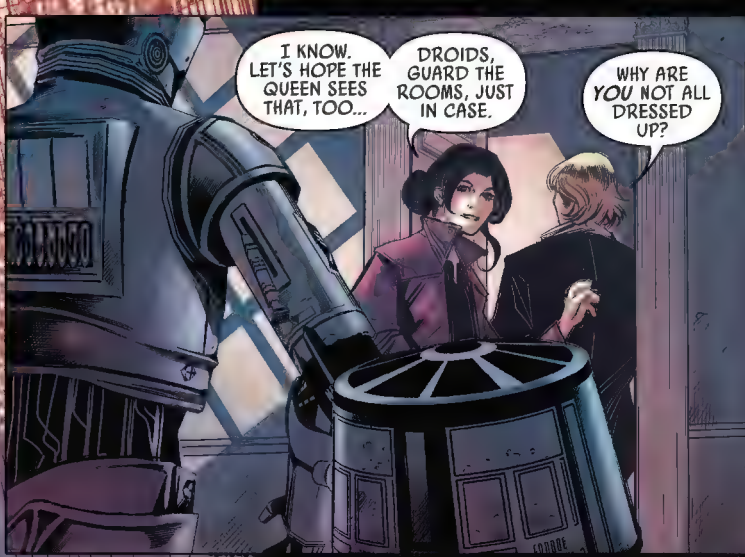


IT'S ALL THAT APHRA EVER DOES.





I'M NOT JUST A FARM BOY.



I KNOW. LET'S HOPE THE QUEEN SEES THAT, TOO...

DROIDS, GUARD THE ROOMS, JUST IN CASE.

WHY ARE YOU NOT ALL DRESSED UP?



YOU'RE THE MAIN ATTRACTION.

I RUB OFF THE MUD, AND I CAN BE VERY DISTRACTING.

I, UH...



I BELIEVE THAT'S TATOOINE BOY FOR "APHRA, YOU LOOK GREAT ANYWAY," MASTER APHRA.

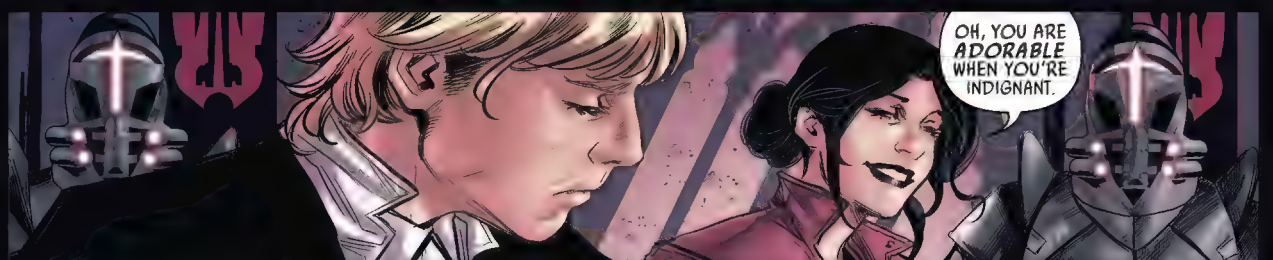


DON'T TEASE HIM.
THAT'S MY JOB.



WOW.

YEAH, WHO
IN THE UNIVERSE
WOULD EVER THINK
YOU WERE A
YOKEL...?



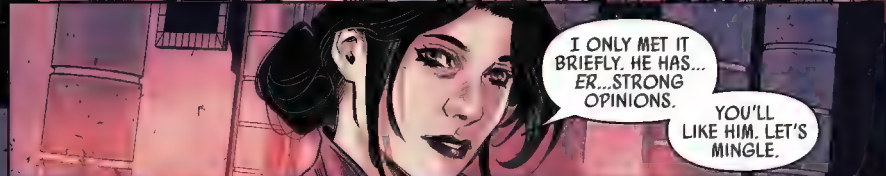
OH, YOU ARE
ADORABLE
WHEN YOU'RE
INDIGNANT.



RIGHT--
FOLLOW MY LEAD.
UNLESS THINGS ARE
REALLY BAD, DON'T
GET THAT LIGHTSABER
OUT.

I HAVE
BEEN KEEPING
BEING A JEDI
SECRET FOR A
WHILE...

...NOT THAT
I AM REALLY A
JEDI. THAT HAS TO
CHANGE. I MEAN...
THE A.I. JEDI. WHAT
WAS HE LIKE?



I ONLY MET IT
BRIEFLY. HE HAS...
ER...STRONG
OPINIONS.

YOU'LL
LIKE HIM. LET'S
MINGLE.



WITH THE
QUEEN'S GIFT,
WE WILL RISE UP
AGAINST THE
EMPIRE!

THAT'S
AMAZING!
WELL, I KNOW THE
REBELLION
CAN--



THEN BRING
THE DOMINION
OF THE EZARAA
ACROSS THE
STARS!

AND
CONSUME THE
FLESH OF ALL
THE LESSER
SPECIES!

IT'S
BEEN GREAT
MEETING
YOU.



THESE
PEOPLE ARE
CRAZY.

THEY ARE.
THERE'S NO WAY THEY
HAVE ENOUGH OF THESE
AMAZING CANAPÉS
FOR EVERYONE.

WHERE'S
IS THE QUEEN?
AH...



PRESENTING
HER MAJESTY!



SHE
WELCOMES ALL,
AND LOOKS FORWARD
TO SEEING THE NOVELTY
OF YOUR
PRESENTATIONS!

SHE
HOPES THEY
WILL ENLIVEN
HER JADED
PALATE!



I PRESENT
A HYROPODIC
AETHERBEAST, NATIVE
ONLY TO THREE
BIOMES ON
YOLTHANI VI.



THE QUEEN IS
INTRIGUED.

SHE WILL
CONSIDER
YOUR REQUEST
FURTHER.



RECOVERED
FROM THE LABS
OF THE GENE-
HERETIC CYLO, A
CYBERANIMATE
FLOP!



NO, THE
QUEEN IS NOT
INTERESTED IN
SUCH THINGS.

WITH
GREAT REGRET,
SHE WILL NOT
CONSIDER YOUR
REQUEST.



BEHOLD, A
MICROFLORA
EFFUSION OF
POLYSATYRS.

I...I HAVE
MAGNIFYING
EQUIPMENT. I
CAN SHOW...

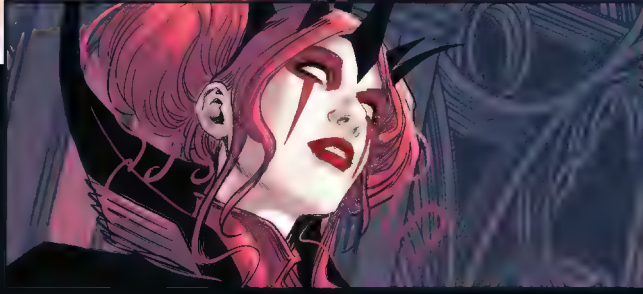


THEY
WILL NOT BE
REQUIRED.

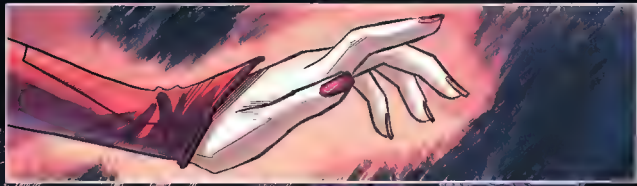
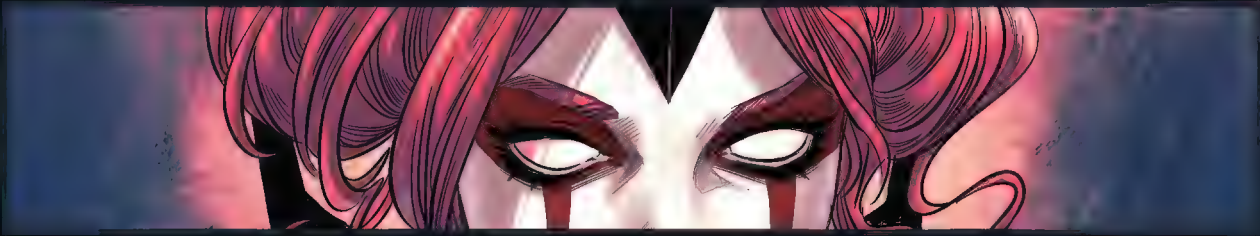
STAY.
YOUR REQUEST
WILL BE
CONSIDERED.



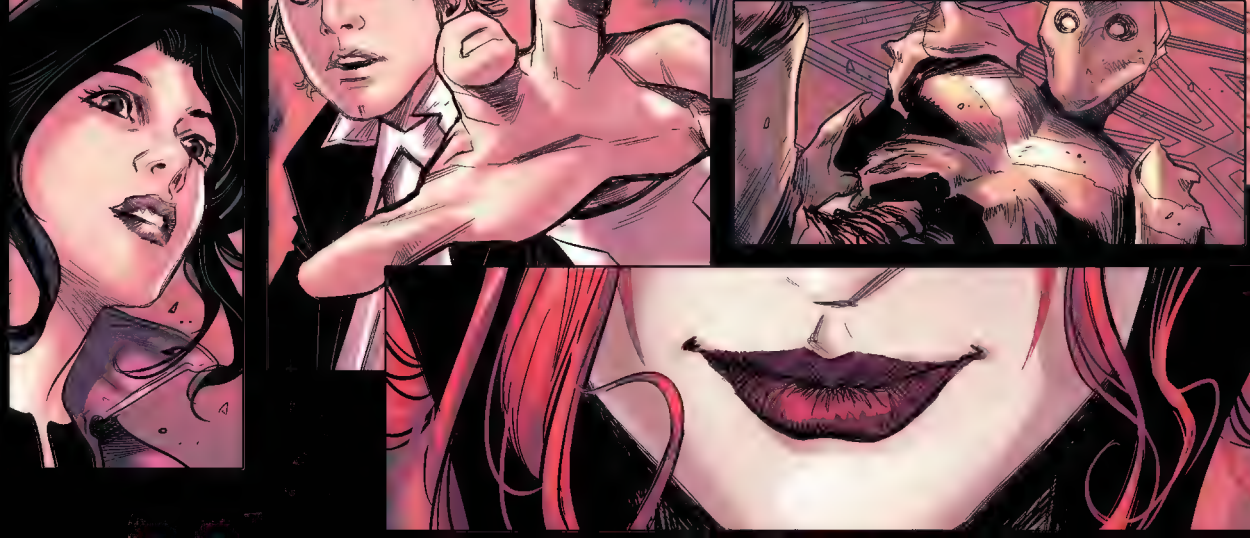
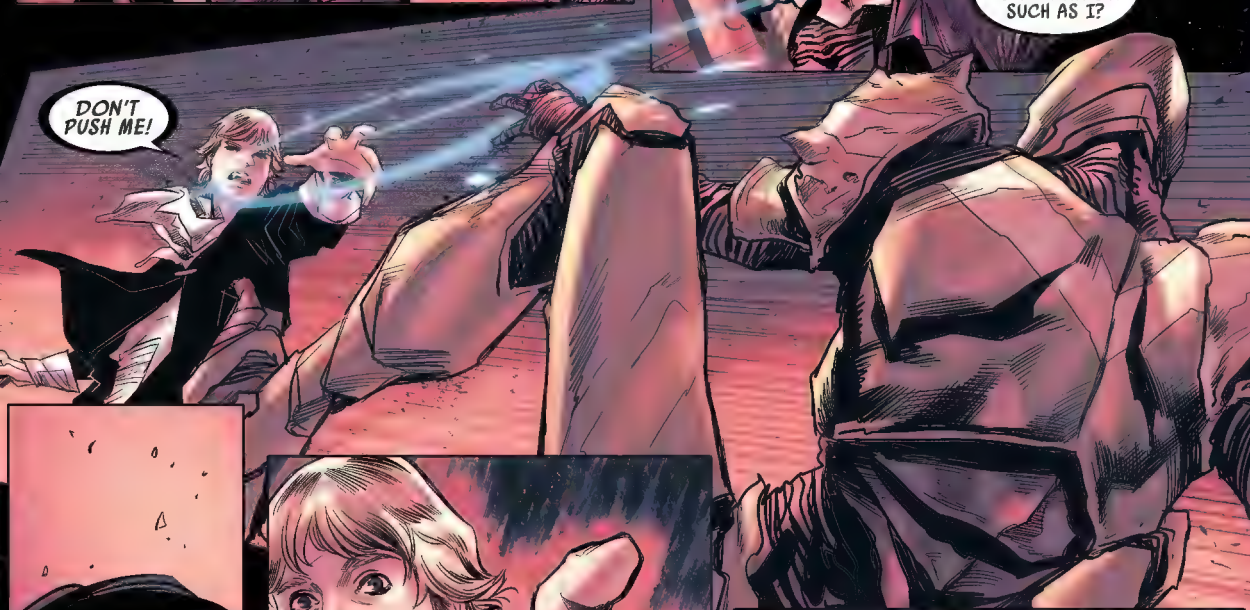
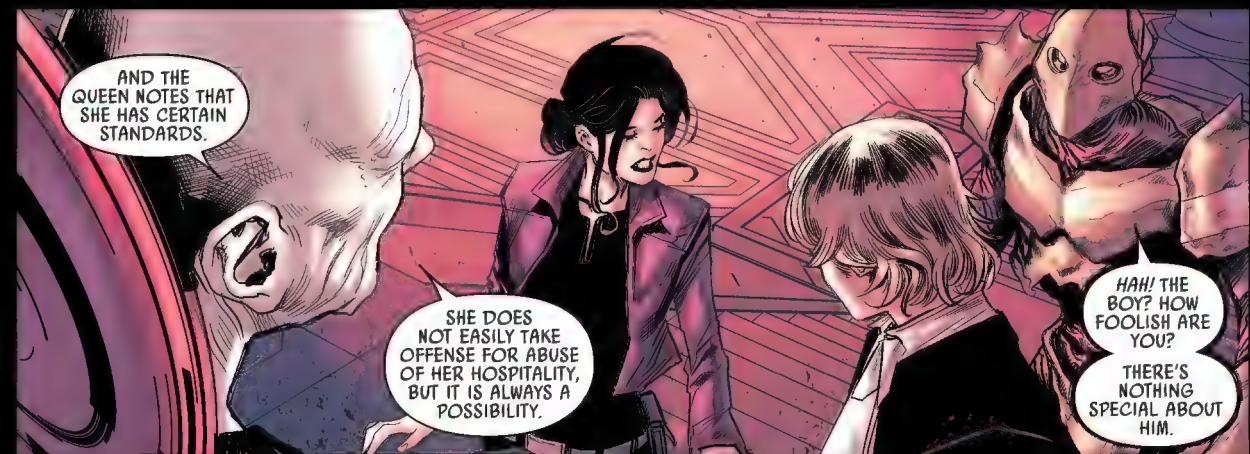
OKAY,
HERE WE
GO...



AND WE
PRESENT...A
VERY INTERESTING
TATOOINE FARM
BOY.



REJECTED!





WOW, I
GUESS *SOMEONE*
ATE TOO MANY OF
THE CANAPES.

THOUGH WHO
CAN BLAME THE
EZARAA, RIGHT? THEY
WERE DELIC--

I MUST
APOLOGIZE.



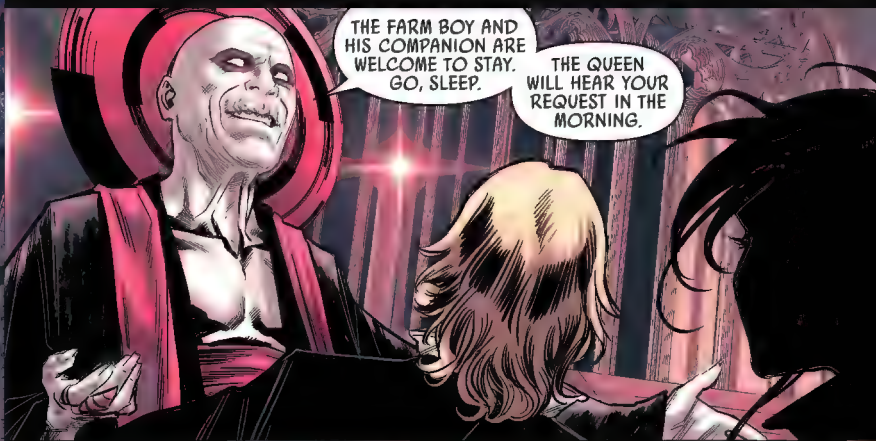
ALL GUESTS
MUST LEAVE,
IMMEDIATELY.



SADLY, THAT
INCLUDES ALL THOSE
WHOM THE QUEEN HAD
PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED
INTEREST IN.

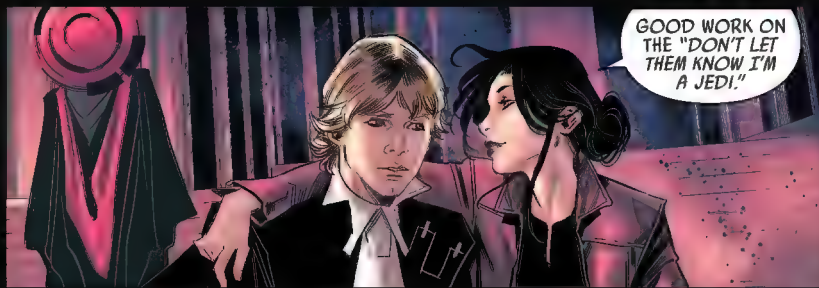
ALL WILL
RECEIVE A PAYMENT
FOR THEIR TIME. WE
UNDERSTAND THEIR
DISAPPOINTMENT.

THE QUEEN
WILL BE HERE
NEXT YEAR, AS
ALWAYS.

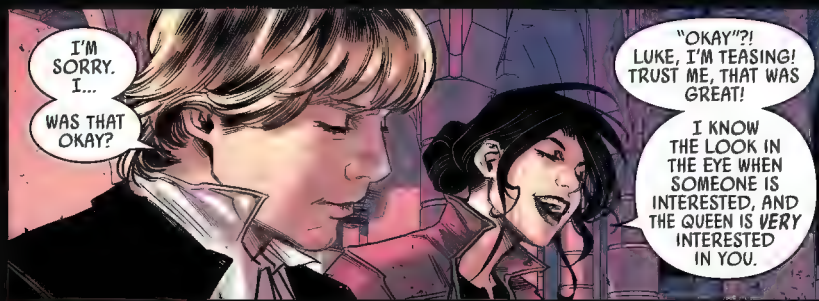


THE FARM BOY AND
HIS COMPANION ARE
WELCOME TO STAY.
GO, SLEEP.

THE QUEEN
WILL HEAR YOUR
REQUEST IN THE
MORNING.



GOOD WORK ON
THE "DON'T LET
THEM KNOW I'M
A JEDI!"

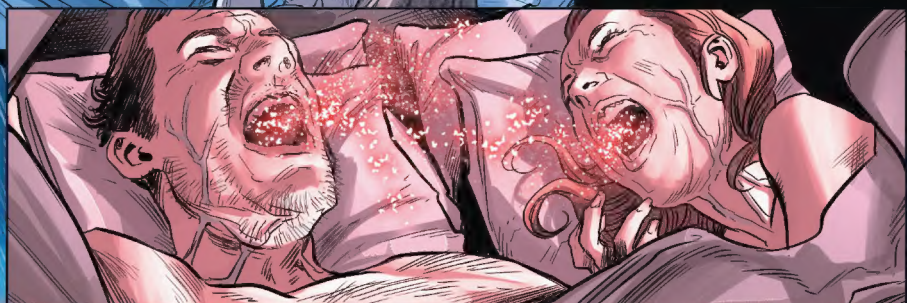
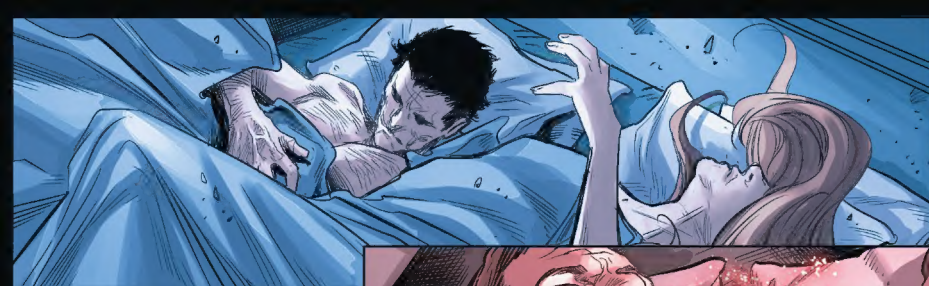


I'M
SORRY.
I...
WAS THAT
OKAY?

"OKAY"?!
LUKE, I'M TEASING!
TRUST ME, THAT WAS
GREAT!

I KNOW
THE LOOK IN
THE EYE WHEN
SOMEONE IS
INTERESTED, AND
THE QUEEN IS VERY
INTERESTED
IN YOU.







...FEED ME.

OH, IT HAS BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I LAST TASTED JEDI.

STAR WARS™ NEXT ISSUE!

